

From Adventure To Defeat

IN 1968, Presidential Candidate Richard Nixon promised American voters peace in Viet Nam. Two years later, as President, Nixon held out to the American public bright prospect for a military decision by means of "Vietnamization" of the war. On April 30, 1970, he still talked peace. Ten days later, the world learnt with stupor and indignation that American divisions, not content with occupying South Viet Nam, had invaded Cambodia. Then on May 2, Nixon announced violent air bombings of the DRVN. On May 4, his police opened fire at American students who demonstrated for peace.

We have been witnessing a real process of escalation.

In a few days, Richard Nixon has passed all bounds still kept by Lyndon Johnson even at the worst moments of his tenure of office. The war now is blazing all over Indochina, a war conducted in the American way. In the rubber plantations and villages of Cambodia, a BBC broadcast reported on May 4, American bombs and shells sought to destroy everything, and on the ground American soldiers were after even the cattle because, again according to the BBC, the US command maintained that houses and cattle in Cambodia could help the "Viet Cong."

In fact, this aggressiveness and barbarousness — barbarous is Senator McGovern's word — stuns only unwarmed people. For those who know Yankee imperialism, its world policy and the real meaning of the high faluting pronouncements that follow its acts of gangsterism, the invasion of Cambodia is no surprise at all. President Truman arrogated to himself the right to intervene brutally in Greece and Korea; President Eisenhower dispatched the 6th Fleet to land marines in the Lebanon. President Kennedy unleashed the "special war" in Viet Nam and landed marines in Thailand; President Johnson sent marines and GIs to Viet Nam and Santo Domingo. In less than a quarter of the century, US troops have invaded a series of countries, often thousands of miles from the US, and each time under the pretext that American security is threatened. The govern-

ments of Juan Bosch in Santo Domingo, of Sihanouk in Cambodia, of Lumumba in the Congo, of Arbenz in Guatemala, etc. all pose a fatal threat to poor America.

To defend this America menaced from all sides, it has been necessary to land more than half a million troops in Viet Nam; to protect these troops, it is necessary to bring war to Laos, then to Cambodia, and to destroy there, just as in Viet Nam, everything that lives and moves. To-morrow, still it will be necessary to go farther because, beyond doubt, the GIs who enter Cambodia will not be in safety either. Hitler spoke of "vital space," the US presidents invoke the security of their country. There is only one difference: Hitler's panzers had not moved as far as US marines and Hellcats aircraft have wreaked less destruction than those of the USAF.

Richard Nixon believes he can outdo Hitler since he has at his disposal incomparably superior technical means. He also believes he is shrewder because he thinks he can lay hand on Asia by pitting Asians against Asians. A whole pack of blood-thirsty generals — Thieu, Pak Jung Hi, Suharto and Kittiachorn — freshly joined by Lon Nol who, to please his bosses, has not been slow to dip his hands in the blood of Cambodian patriots and Vietnamese nationalists residing in Cambodia, is already prepared to do this dirty job, not excluding the dictator of Taiwan and the impudent imperialists of Japan.

May Richard Nixon ponder over this gospel truth: he that striketh with the sword shall be stricken with the scabbard. The people of Indochina have been struggling, with arms in hands, for 30 years for their independence. Fifty million people of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia are resolved never to be enslaved again. They are determined to fight and know how to fight. Behind them are the whole socialist camp and all progressives in the world. To invade a new country and open a new front while the American forces have already sustained setback after setback in Viet Nam and Laos is an adventure that will turn out to be costly. At the end of this, what is in store for Nixon and the US can but be the most humiliating defeat.

DIRECTIVES ON PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S 80th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

THE Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has just made known its directives on the commemoration of the 80th birth anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh (May 19, 1970).

From May to the end of June, a campaign of political activities will mark that anniversary. It is to give the cadres, Party members and people a better knowledge of the merits and work of the late President, to encourage our people to study and follow his example, to weld their union and strengthen their determination to fight and to surmount all difficulties, to carry through all tasks, to be industrious, thrifty, honest and righteous, to devote heart and soul to the common cause and to show disinterestedness, modesty and simplicity. All the Party, people and army are called on to march valiantly forward, successfully implement President Ho Chi Minh's last instructions and the "five oaths" taken at the ceremony held on September 9, 1969 in his memory, fulfil thoroughly the obligations towards the South and give a strong fillip to the economic and cultural development in the North.

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The 4th AA Company at Ham Rong, worthy heir to its Dien Bien Phu elders

**USAF
DULY PUNISHED IN
NORTH VIET NAM**

**13 Jets Downed
in 4 Days of**

Re-escalation



AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS ACT OF WAR

In four consecutive days, from May 1 to 4, hundreds of US aircraft including B-52s flew devastating raids on populated areas in the districts of Quang Ninh, Le Thuy, Tuyen Hoa, Ninh Hoa (Quang Binh province) and Ky Son, Dien Chanh, Nghia Dan (Ngha An province). Some of the localities under attack are situated North of the 19th parallel, that is, in the zone "spared" by LB Johnson during the period of "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam.

Profusely using explosive, steel-pellet, time-bombs, rockets, the US aircraft inflicted heavy losses in human life and property on the local population: 20 children and many women were killed.

Ever since the unconditional cessation of bombings, US aircraft have not ceased violating the sovereignty and endangering the security of the DRVN, but never have their attacks taken such proportions. The Pentagon said they were only cases of "protective reaction," but Western agencies revealed that they were decided by none other than Nixon himself. They were in fact part and parcel of an overall plan of the United States to step up and spread the war like the recent US armed aggression in Cambodia. They were closely linked with Nixon's threats to resort to "strong measures" and Melvin Laird's statements aimed at preparing public opinion for an eventual

"resuming of North Viet Nam bombing."

The new war escalation against the DRVN stirred such a strong opposition in the United States and the world at large that on May 5 the Nixon administration had to declare that it now stopped the series of power-lifted air raids against North Viet Nam, adding, however, that these might be resumed in case of necessity.

Such an utterance only barred the perfidy and obstinacy of the Washington rulers. In describing the USAF May 1-4 strikes as "powerful air raids against North Viet Nam," the Nixon administration gave the lie to its own previous statement that such actions were only cases of routine "protective reaction." But in reserving to itself the right to resume these attacks against an independent and sovereign country, a member of the socialist camp, it provided ample proof of its cynicism and bellicism.

The four-party Conference in Paris could be opened only as a result of US unconditional cessation of bombing against the DRVN. Nobody will now be deceived by Nixon's repeated assertions that he was for a negotiated settlement of the Viet Nam problem.

As far as the Vietnamese people are concerned, they are always highly vigilant and ready to deal deserving blows at the US aggressor in North as well as in South Viet Nam.

FROM INTENTIONS...

ARE some of the reasons explaining French defeat at Dien Bien Phu applicable to the present situation in Viet Nam? Let us recall them in a few words.

In Summer 1953, to ward off an inevitable defeat of the French Expeditionary Corps, the US granted France a supplementary loan of \$5 million dollars in addition to the 400 million dollars already appropriated for that year, the major part going to troop equipment. Navarre, new Commander-in-Chief of the French Expeditionary

...TO REALITIES

THE French and puppet troops, however, had to fight in an over-stretched theatre of operation, in all the 3 Indochinese countries, while people's war, to varying degrees, was gaining momentum everywhere. They came up against a fundamental contradiction: either to concentrate themselves to break the ever stronger Vietnamese regular units or to thin out to occupy territory and "pacify" the country. The contradiction was all the more difficult to surmount as they had to deal with a resolute and battle-hardened adversary who was every where and

Hon and Phong Saly which, with Sam Neua province liberated in 1952, had since then linked the Lao Resistance bases in the Northwest to Viet Nam.

In co-ordinating the operations in Laos with other operations in Central and South Viet Nam, the Vietnamese Command had landed the adversary in a totally passive position. Against an adversary already spread this on all fronts it concentrated its forces and its means of war to win the decisive battle of the war in the very area the strategists thought it could not conduct operations some what less important for a relatively long period. Thus,

SIXTEEN YEARS AFTER DIEN BIEN PHU

Corps, then envisaged a substantial strengthening of the puppet army, the creation of a powerful strategic mobile force, thanks to the regroupment of the occupation troops and the new contributions from home. He focussed attention on the Bac Bo Delta (North Viet Nam) which he regarded as a key position.

In other words, the business of the French Command which had powerful means of war at its disposal was to muster its troops in strategic areas and gradually make the locally recruited mercenary army the bulk of its fighting force. The colonialists estimated that the successes they could obtain would force the DRVN to negotiate in unfavourable conditions and that the country would see its regular units cut to pieces. State Secretary Foster Dulles, total supporter of the Navarre Plan, presented it to US Congress as apt to "break the organised body of communist aggression by the end of the 1953 fighting season."

In the last months of 1953, Navarre succeeded in building a mobile force of 84 battalions on all the Indochina front, 44 of them in the Bac Bo Delta alone, and a puppet army of 200,000 men, not including those who served with the Expeditionary Corps, or an increase of 90,000, a record figure since the outbreak of the war. This large army was better equipped than before and dotted with stronger air power.

nowhere. Day and night, the guerrillas harassed the enemy troops. With their support and the assistance of the population, the regular troops, better armed and better trained, found themselves in good conditions to decimate the enemy or make short work of his garrisons. As for our regular army, it enjoyed complete freedom of action without bothering about occupying any place or moving into any given area. As a general rule, the people's armed forces went into battle only when they were sure to win and only hit their adversary where he was exposed. Such a tactic of the people's forces rendered the above-mentioned contradiction much more difficult for the colonialists to solve, especially with the widening of the theatre of operation.

In November 1953, while the French mistletoe force in the Red River Delta, units of the VNPA swung into action in the Northern mountain area. Furthermore, Vietnamese volunteers were prepared to provide aid to the Pathet Lao in areas of Upper Laos. Navarre was forced to abandon troops on Dien Bien Phu and to fly to the rescue of sectors under pressure in Laos with reinforcements from the Delta and other fronts.

This failed to prevent the Pathet Lao and Vietnamese volunteers from liberating Thakhek and other important points in Central Laos and Attopeu in Lower Laos. In Upper Laos, they dislodged the enemy from Viet

one of the most important actors leading to the French defeat was the necessity to deploy troops into 3 countries and to fly to the rescue of every menaced sector in these countries. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese Command, in co-ordination of the operations with the resistance of brotherly peoples of Laos and Cambodia gave it much more room to manoeuvre than when the theatre of war covered a single country. The widening of the war could not aggravate the critical situation of the French troops.

FORGOTTEN LESSONS

NOWADAYS, the US has at its disposal a much better force two and a half times larger and much better equipped than France. There is no denying the fact that with such an army it has already sustained more crushing and more resounding defeats than France did in 1953. Beaten in South Viet Nam, it has extended the war to Laos and is seeking to bring it to Cambodia.

In fighting a bigger war, the Americans are operating in this year 1970 in worse conditions than the French in 1953.

In Viet Nam, have they not been compelled to pull their troops out, in one way or another? Walter Lippmann has remarked, not without irony, that for the first time in the history of wars, a country pretends

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Paris Conference on Viet Nam

May 6 Session Cancelled

THE 66th session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, scheduled for May 6, did not take place. The DRVN Government delegation at this Conference announced in a statement its decision not to take part in that session in protest against the extremely serious war acts committed against the DRVN

by the US in these last four days. (At the 65th session held on April 30, Mr Nguyen Minh Vy, representative of the DRVN, had already warned the Nixon administration of the consequences which could result from the acts of US war intensification in Indochina).



16th ANNIVERSARY OF DIEN BIEN PHU

THE PEOPLE'S ARMY AFTER DIEN BIEN PHU

THE Viet Nam People's Army put up in the first months of 1970 in Hanoi a big exhibition, a reportage of which is given below on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of Dien Bien Phu. The recent "re-escalation" by the USAF in North Viet Nam seems to give it a more present interest.

THE FIRST RIFLES IN THE WORLD TO DOWN "JET" PLANES

AT the "AA defence" stand, the visitor is welcomed by "veterans": the first resistance: 1916 vintage muskets, a "Tommy gun" and even an old "rebel" of the last century which grounded a French plane in the 1945-1954 Indochina war. Other exhibits testify to our first victory over the US air raid on August 5, 1964 (the first stage of US escalation).

Here, the debris of an AD6 Skyraider downed at Lach Truong (Thanh Hoa province) the first day of the "escalation" still bear the traces of rifle and heavy machine gun bullets. There, on an arm-rack are rifles with which the militia women of Dien Hong village, Nghe An province, grounded an A4D Skyhawk on March 15, 1965; it was the first plane shot down by the militia and perhaps the first jet plane in the world knocked out of the sky by rifles. The people's militia and regional troops vie with one another in downing jets with light weapons. The record has been held by Quang Binh province but Thanh Hoa achieved two remarkable exploits: on October 24, 1967 a unit of militia veterans of Haing Truong village, composed exclusively of sexagenarians, bagged a fighter-bomber of the US Navy and the unit of militia girls of Hau Lac village had to its credit two jets downed. In Lang Son province, with a salvo of eleven rifle shots, the Nung country-women pruned a jet plane off March 8, 1966.

Sculptural group welcoming visitors in the central yard of the exhibition, a collective work of military staffers

As he comes in, the visitor's attention is drawn to the most up-to-date materials: Mig 17, Mig 21, K-59 (Chinese-made plane), radars, missiles with their launching pads, AA batteries, armoured vehicles of various types. The VNPA is now a far cry from what it was sixteen years ago. A close look will show people that these war materials have been manufactured in the Soviet Union, China, GDR, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Albania, PDR Korea: all the socialist camp is there, at Viet Nam's side.

However, all this modern armoury cannot supply an adequate answer to the query why Viet Nam, a poorly industrialized country, rather small in area and population, was able to withstand and win a war of destruction waged by the US with an unheard-of ferocity.

The key to the problem can be found in a visit to the various stands of the display which, as a foreign visitor put it, "shows eloquently how an army closely linked to its people made use of all the means at its disposal to foil US imperialist aggression." (Entry of the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic, in the Visitors' Book of the Exhibition).

THE BRIDGE THAT CHALLENGED McNAMARA

THE lay-out representing the defence of the Ham Rong bridge linking North and South of the country at the 20th parallel takes pride of place in the stand reserved for Thanh Hoa province.

This famous bridge about 100m long stoically held out for one thousand days and nights; in fact, in about 5,000 sorties, the US planes released 71,000 bombs and rockets, some of which hit its platform and trusses, but the traffic was never interrupted more than 24 hours. This feat was achieved at the price of a stubborn resistance put up jointly by the VNPA and civilians: AA batteries, missile launching pads, raia stations, people's armed police, militia, pontooners, workers of the thermo-electric station near by, rural militia of Nam Ngan and Yen Vuc villages located at both ends of the bridge, together with the river patrols of the people's Navy and fighter planes.

This perfect co-ordination wore a real net protecting the bridge which all the tactics allegedly devised by the Americans were unable to destroy. Stung to the quick, on July 18, 1965 in an inspection tour of South Viet Nam, McNamara went

The power station built at some hundred metres from the bridge, received 300 bombs and rockets, yet there was no power failure. Not a plot of ricefield of the two co-operatives near the bridge was not riddled with American bombs and shells, yet rice plants kept growing lushly.



In that titanic contest at Ham Rong, five units, one 21 years' old militia girl, and the manager of the electric station were promoted heroes by the National Assembly. There can be seen combatants' sponsoring mothers, mending the gunners' clothes, the aluminum cup of the late little Nguyen Thi Hoan who brought tea to the fighters during the air raids on May 21, 22 and 23, 1966; the skull used by a boatman who captured Lieutenant Commander Delton fallen into the river, portrait of the female hero Lam Thi Xuan who helped move AA guns and feed them, thus embodying our Party's military line: "Everyone is a fighter."

MILITIA GIRLS vs THE SEVENTH FLEET

ON an arm-rack, one sees not a "conventional" weapon, but a shoulder pole used to carry two loads dangling from its both ends, in the hands of a 15 years' old boy, it contributed to the capture of an American pilot twice his size.

The stand of the 4th militia zone is conspicuous by the exploits achieved by Quang Binh province. Here is a machine-gun with which farmer Tran Quoc Hieu downed the young girl Nguyen Thi Xuan who, on Dec. 6, 1967 grounded a Phantom with a machine-gun and of eight militia girls at Vo Ninh who on Feb. 16, 1967 brought down an unmanned chopper.

Each village in Quang Binh province has a fortress, an AA battery. The American aggressors lost 104 aircraft to the workers and farmers in that province, besides 3 planes were brought down by each militia unit of two villages, 2 by two other villages and 1 by seven other militia units.

Quang Binh was also one of the choice targets of the Seventh Fleet. Like other coastal provinces, it built a coastal defence manned only by the militiamen and women fighting together with "regular" artillerymen. Trained by army

(Continued page 4)

on board an aircraft-carrier stationed in the Tonkin Gulf and looked on the jets taking off to bombard Ham Rong bridge. In a photo published in an American paper, the Defense Secretary was seen giving instructions to the captain of the ship. Lieutenant Commander Delton was perhaps present at that briefing. Another photo shows him in the Ham Rong area surrounded by the militia who captured him.

An advance of Hong Linh AA unit which, for the first time in the world, downed an F-111-A swing winged jet. In two it is a 37mm shell case of the salvo which scored the hit

THE PEOPLE'S ARMY...

(Continued from page 3)

units stationed in the area, they possessed a modern equipment and were quick in getting acquainted with trigonometry, meteorology, cartography, telemetry. There have been hundreds of such skilled gunners capable of striking at enemy targets with big ordnance pieces. The young artillery girls at Ngu Thuy set fire three times to the ships of the 7th Fleet.

Working at sea with small boats, our fishermen had to cope everyday with American men-of-war: they successfully discharged their duty. Here is the picture of six of them at Dien Trung, Nghe An province, who sank a commando-ship on the night of August 21, 1967: here are the masts and ropes of three fishing junks manned by militiamen of Quynh Hang, Nghe An province, who successfully contended with enemy ships, planes and choppers for two American pilots downed at sea.

Quang Binh had distinguished itself by the biggest numbers of aircraft grounded (570 up to March 1970) and ships sunk or burned (47).

"GUARDIAN STARS" OF LORRY DRIVERS

At the Communication stand one can see the photo of a country girl running toward an AA battery with two boxes of shells twice her own weight, a "bicycle cart" especially made to transport goods on narrow paths and on which Nguyen Duc Ngo could carry a live weight of 750 kilograms, the double of the record set during the Dien Bien Phu campaign, lorries having covered tens of thousands of kilometres on the worst roads without repairs and drivers driving trucks without head lights on for hundreds of nights on end.



Artillery girls of Ngu Thuy people's militia unit



Enemy aircraft hit hard at communication lines and transport. It is impossible to find in Ha Tinh province any over 10-metre long bridge undamaged. The Do Trai bridge, of 40 metres in length, was bombed 130 times and if the bombs dropped on it are lined up, they are sixty times longer than the bridge itself.

Nevertheless, as admitted by the American authorities all Washington's efforts were to no avail.

A clay model shows how the traffic on Do Len river was re-established: the bridge used for trains and vehicles could be quickly repaired by trusses scattered nearby. In this area, all means of communication were kept ready for use: many ferry boats, a dozen floating bridges for lorries and motor-cars, others for pedestrians and cyclists. There were cofferbridges, and pontoon-bridges and also "unsinkable" bridges made of bundles of big bamboo pipes whose compartments inside made them more or less immune to the effects of US bombs and shells.

South of Ham Rong, the crossing of Highway No 1 on the Ghep river was done by a ferry. In the hectic days of the war, the traffic was kept going even in the rainy season by many pontoon-bridges.

A great homage is paid to the sappers' units which in war time kept in good order 5,441 kilometres of existing roads and built 3,300 kilometres of new ones. Hundreds

of kilometres of railway tracks were also built together with an extensive network of foot-paths, motor-roads and waterways, which foiled the scheme of the American strategists.

The enemy made a wide use of time-bombs which were more and more dangerous as they were gradually improved. Twenty two per cent of these bombs (about 40,000) were unprimed by army sappers, while the remaining was neutralized by the people's sappers trained in all villages by army men for some weeks to see to the security of communications.

During the raids, from their watchtowers, signalmen gave the exact number and location of unexploded bombs which were marked by visible banners planted on the points of impact. Teams of workers unearthed or uncapped these lethal weapons while others built side-tracks for vehicles to bypass the danger spots.

As traffic was intense chiefly at night, these banners were kept constantly lit by courageous volunteers.

These "fire-flies" or "guardian stars" of the lorry-drivers with eyes bloodshot from sleeplessness greatly contributed to the strategic failure of the Americans.

"WE'RE NOT TWIDDLING OUR THUMBS HERE!"

DONG LOC cross-roads, in Ha Tinh province, is represented by a big map in relief. It received, in the eight months between Johnson's decision to limit the bombardments and that to stop them for good in the DRVN, 42,000 bombs released in 2,000 air sorties. The scenery, completely pock-marked by bomb craters, looks like a lunar landscape. No trees, not a living soul. On this lacerated land, a brigade of voluntary youths lived, fought and worked to maintain traffic open at any cost. Militiamen and peasants kept turns in mending the road, which consequently was never cut off during 140 days of infernal raids (8 bombings per 24 hours).

With emotion the visitor can see the picks, pickaxes and shovels belonging to the ten young girls of Group 4 killed by a time-bomb while working on a road section full of these lethal weapons.

In the same infernal area, La Thi Tam, another young girl, was cited a heroine. She is seen in the photo on her watch-tower with her field glasses counting unexploded bombs. During one hundred days at Dong Loc, she planted signal flags on 501 holes in each of which lay a time-bomb rendered more and more dangerous as its explosion time was nearing. Sometimes, Tam stood by an unexploded bomb for hours to warn whole columns of trucks to move on rapidly.

In that "bomb-pocket" the road was divided into sections, the maintenance of each of which was assigned to an agricultural co-operative in the vicinity. There was in a glass-case a letter signed by 103 families members of the Tien Loc co-operative suggesting that a cross-road be opened even though it would pass through their hamlet, houses or gardens.

In other co-operatives, the farmers drew up the lists of materials they were ready to put at the disposal of the authorities to mend roads. At Hai Trai village they demolished their houses to have enough bricks to build a submerged foot-path across a river, thus making it difficult for enemy planes to spot. Such sacrifices were possible thanks to the rational organization of work and the spirit of mutual assistance which prevail over the co-op members' personal interests.

Other exhibits also come from Dong Loc: a wooden crutch on which war invalid Nguyen Hoang would come every night to the construction site to help roadmen with his advice or encouragement, the fine hand-writing of Vo Thi An, a teenager in the "Ten of Group, 4," who wrote to her mother shortly before her death as follows: "We are not twiddling our thumbs here, mother! At night the light of flares dropped by the Yankes facilitates our work. In the day time, their bombs kill fish for us to get more protein. The enemy bombs and shells can shake our woods and forests but not our determination."

MOBILE AA SHELTER AND THE CHILD BORN IN THE WOMB OF THE EARTH

METAL cases of the shells which set fire to the US 60,000 ton cruiser *New Jersey* on Oct. 26, 1968, the photo of a launching pad of a missile which destroyed the first B-52, the box of artificial smoke with which Vy "kindled" a fire on Nov. 11, 1966 to draw upon himself 300 bombs, thus enabling our AA batteries to down six fighter-bombers, the clay model of a famous artillery emplacement which on March 20, 1967 silenced the enemy guns shelling North Viet Nam across the 17th parallel, all this bears testimony to the activities of Vinh Linh, the area the most exposed to US attacks and even within the range of carbines of enemy forces operating in the "demilitarized zone."

Vinh Linh is also known for the manner in which its inhabitants organized their life and work under the bombing.

The lay-out of a group of underground dwellings gives us an idea of that struggle. Beginning with a trench deeper than a man's size, a gallery leads us, after getting down

about 30 steps, to a large tunnel provided with air-shafts and light and cells serving as "living rooms" for a 3 or 4-member family and roomier crypts where a young girl sells her wares, a baby-sitter nurses her little ones, a schoolmistress teaches her pupils, a nurse tends her patients, a theatrical group gives a performance. In a photo we see a midwife bathing a newly-born baby eight metres deep in the earth.

About thirty kilometres off Vinh coast, near the 17th parallel, Con Co, an islet barely some square kilometres large, became a true "bomb pocket" if it was not a selective target. In fact, on its return flights from the mainland, each American plane used to jettison its unused bombs and rockets on it, thus enabling our combatants there to bag about fifty jets in three years. They had sent to this exhibition flutes and banjos made from wreckage of planes. A small industry had sprung up during the US escalation: in Vinh Linh, the inhabitants manufactured a kind of black tea for local consumption and made racks and ploughshares with debris of rockets and planes.

From Ha Tay province, whose main concern is farming, the inhabitants had sent to the exhibition specimens of agricultural machines turned out during the US escalation: Nam Ha province can now produce cement.

We learn from the statistics available at the show that from

1965 to 1968 in the plains on the right bank of the Red River the number of agricultural co-operatives which yield 5 tons of paddy per hectare upwards increased by 30 per cent, the local industrial production rose by 120 per cent, the number of hospitals went from 27 to 91 and that of school-children from 883,000 to 1,300,000. Destroyed since the beginning of US bombardments, the Nam Dinh textile factory, thanks to a rational organization of work, succeeded in turning out an additional 10 million metres of textiles as a gift to our Southern fellow-countrymen despite the fact that its various workshops were dispersed in the surrounding countryside.

North Viet Nam has not been "bombed back to the stone age" as clamoured for by an American brasshat, Curtis Le May; on the contrary she is gradually marching forward to socialism.

Here we deal with the sources of that constantly renewed energy of the Vietnamese nation: it is a symbiosis of the leadership and thorough-going revolutionary spirit of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the working class and the tradition of indomitable struggle forged by our people in the course of their millenary history.

Like the French colonialists in 1945, when they were staging a comeback to Viet Nam, the American imperialists did not foresee such a strength, incomprehensible for them, and they have been paying dear for that. In this great confrontation between human values and barbarity that "unconceivable strength," so much vaunted by US propaganda, turns out to be on the side of the people's war, of a people resolute to fight for their own cause and for the cause of mankind.

The visitor can see in the stand reserved for Nghe An province the remnants of a conical hat

frame and covered with plaited straw.

With their long experience with the enemy, the Vinh Linh inhabitants have put into practice the slogan: "To cling to the ground at any cost." Not only are they not content with surviving on that land churned up by American bombs and shells, but they build underground villages where classes are run for children who cannot be evacuated and stages built for theatrical performances.

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defeating another by reducing its military presence there. "Whereas the French controlled the cities in a relatively sure fashion, today the war is being fought there with all its intensity: there is no more sanctuary for the occupier. Practically the GIs have been forced to battle any place, any time and any way the Liberation forces want them to. Furthermore, the South Vietnamese revolutionary forces today can rely on a vast rear base, socialist North Viet Nam, and receive the most effective international aid. It is not in the full flush of victory but in a losing posture in Viet Nam that the Americans have intensified the war in Laos. There, all the weight of the USA and the presence of thousands of US advisers and battalions of Thai troops sent in on order from Washington have not prevented

us cease making strangers to our race fight for causes which are proper to us. Of course, all our colonial wars had been fought and well fought by the indigenous troops, but this epoch where our policy succeeded in persuading these indigenes that they were fighting for their own interest was over."

Recalling the lessons forgotten by the successive governments of his country, an American author has written: "If there is any analogy, useful to us in the 1960's, it is something closer to us in time and space: the experience of the French in Viet Nam from 1946 to 1954."

* Bernard Fall: *The Two Vietnams*, p.122.

** *Newweek*, Dec. 1, 1969

*** Pierre Langlais: *Dien Bien Phu*, p.241.

**** Theodore Draper: *The Abuse of Power*, p.126.

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(Continued from page 2)

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* Bernard Fall: *The Two Vietnams*, p.122.

** *Newweek*, Dec. 1, 1969

*** Pierre Langlais: *Dien Bien Phu*, p.241.

**** Theodore Draper: *The Abuse of Power*, p.126.



Military Situation in Indo-China before Dien Bien Phu

Legend: a) Free areas in Viet Nam.
b) Direction of attack of Vietnamese troops and Pathet Lao army units.

D.R.V.N. GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT ON U.S. AGGRESSION IN CAMBODIA

On April 30, 1970 US President Nixon impulsively ordered US troops to launch aggressive attacks on Cambodia. Earlier, on April 29 and 30, the United States threw big US and puppet forces including infantry, armoured units, B-52's and aircraft of other types into large-scale actions deep into Cambodian territory.

This is US naked aggression against Cambodia, gross violation of her independence and sovereignty, after disregard of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina. It is a new, extremely dangerous US escalation, resulting in an expansion of the war to the whole of Indochina, and a serious threat to peace in South-East Asia and the world. It is an insolent challenge to all peace- and justice-loving countries; it is also an intolerable challenge to US public opinion which has been urging that the Nixon Administration put an end to its aggression and withdraw all US troops from Indochina.

To deceive and placate world and American public opinion, and to camouflage the US aggression and extension of the war, President Nixon has impudently slandered against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and put forward the sophistic contention that the US attacks on Cambodian territory are designed to protect the lives of US troops and to bring the Viet Nam war to an early end. But this quibble is all too transparent!

Everybody knows that over the past fifteen years, the United States has undermined the independence, peace and neutrality of Cambodia in an attempt to turn that country into a neo-colony and a military base. After the US-directed coup d'état of March 18, 1970, the present US attacks against Cambodia aim precisely at speeding up the implementation of this US aggressive plan. In the past, Johnson talked of "saving American lives" and "bringing the war to an early end" to camouflage US escalation of the war in North Viet Nam and in Laos. The truth is that the US war of aggression in South Viet Nam is dragging out and expanding day by day, hundreds of thousands of US troops have been killed or wounded. In his turn, Nixon has now repeated the same "saving American lives" and "bringing the war to an early end" claims to camouflage the US aggression in Cambodia, and escalation and expansion of the war to the whole of Indochina. Following in the Johnson administration's footsteps, the Nixon administration is gradually

"Americanizing" the war of aggression in Cambodia which is being turned into a "second Viet Nam." To protect the lives of US troops and bring the war to an early end, there is only one way — to withdraw rapidly and completely all US troops!

The US escalation of the war of aggression in Cambodia and its extension to the whole of Indochina have exposed the aggressive, warlike and odious nature of the Nixon administration, and the odious features of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique which serves the US imperialists under cover of fake neutrality. These adventurist US actions are proof enough that Nixon's Vietnamization plan is going bankrupt, and have shed a strong light on the embarrassment and setbacks of the US aggressors and their lackeys in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. With a huge war machine which includes over a million US-puppet and satellite troops and thousands of air and naval craft, and with the dropping of millions of tons of bombs on Viet Nam, the US aggressors have proved to be unable to prevent the Vietnamese people from winning victory after victory. The frantic US escalation of the war in Laos has not been able to conquer the valiant Lao people who fight for independence and freedom. Decidedly, the cynical US aggression in Cambodia cannot stave off the US-puppets' defeat in Viet Nam, nor can it save the fascist and racist clique of Lon Nol-Sirik Matak from total collapse in the face of the impetuous mounting patriotic movement of the Khmer people rallied within the United National Front of Kampuchea under the clearheaded leadership of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk. The more the United States prolongs and expands the war in Indochina, the heavier its failures.

The peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos have deep at heart independence, freedom and peace to build their countries. They demand only one thing — that the United States withdraw all its troops from Indochina and let each of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples settle themselves their own affairs. It is this US imperialists who have hurled expeditionary troops into an aggression against the Indochinese countries and savage massacres of their inhabitants, it is they who have brought dishonour on the United States and stained the American people's traditions of freedom and democracy. To withdraw all US expeditionary troops from the Indochinese countries, to respect the Indochinese peoples' genuine right to self-determina-

tion is the true way to restore the damaged honour of the United States.

Confronted with US aggression against Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, the three peoples, translating into deeds the historic appeal of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, will strengthen their solidarity with the firm determination to persist in, and step up, the fight to drive the US aggressors out of the Indochinese peninsula and to win total victory. Carrying out the sacred last wishes of President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese people are firmly resolved to push up their war of resistance to US aggression, for national salvation, to extend wholehearted support to the just struggle of the fraternal peoples of Cambodia and Laos.

President Nixon has also uttered truculent threats against the Indochinese peoples. The Vietnamese people emphatically declare that no brute force, no menace can shake the firm determination of the three Indochinese peoples to fight and to defeat the US aggressors and their agents.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam sternly condemn US war escalation and expansion. The Nixon administration must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising therefrom.

In this grave hour, the Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam earnestly call on the peoples and governments of the fraternal socialist countries, the nationalist countries, the peace- and justice-loving countries, the international organisations, the world's peoples and the American people, to strongly denounce the US war mongers and to resolutely stay their bloody hands. The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam are firmly convinced that all brothers and friends in the five continents will extend continued and increased support to the just cause of the three Indochinese peoples till final victory.

Hanoi, May 2, 1970.

On May 3, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam also released a statement strongly condemning the US open armed invasion of Cambodia.

PLANNED FORCIBLE REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS IN CAMBODIA CONDEMNED

In a statement released on May 2, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry strongly denounced the planned forcible "repatriation" of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia to the zones in South Viet Nam under the temporary control of the US and its puppets. This forced "repatriation" is being negotiated by a delegation sent by the Saigon puppet administration to Phnom Penh to contact the coup makers there.

The statement stressed:

"While our fellow-countrymen in both zones and world public opinion are highly indignant at, and severely condemning, the reactionary Lon Nol-Matak clique's massacres of Vietnamese residents in the Theu-Ky Khien not only repressed the students and war veterans and invalids in Saigon who expressed their solidarity with Vietnamese residents, but also supplied weapons to

this clique to kill Cambodians and, lastly, massacre Vietnamese residents. These extremely vile attitude and acts of the Vietnamese traitors in Saigon have been exposed and scored by public opinion.

"Now, the Saigon puppet administration plays the trick of 'repatriating' Vietnamese residents, setting up an interministerial committee 'alleged to give relief to the Vietnamese residents.' Its true aim is to force the Vietnamese residents to return to the US-puppet concentration camps or to draft them into the army to serve as cannon-fodder, oppose the patriotic struggle to counter and foil the Khmer people to counter and foil all nefarious moves of the henchmen of the US in Saigon and Phnom Penh.

SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK DENOUNCES U.S. ARMED AGGRESSION IN CAMBODIA

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia and President of the National United Front of Kampuchea, issued on April 30 an appeal in connection with the current US armed aggression in Cambodia.

The appeal, made public to the press in Peking by the Secretary of the Cambodian Head of State, reads in full as follows:

"NOT content with having given the reactionary Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique all the financial and material means indispensable for staging its March 18 coup d'état, the US imperialists are now carrying out open intervention by sending their ground and air forces and the armed forces of their Saigon lackeys deep into Cambodia in an attempt to check the irresistible march of the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist armed forces of the Khmer people towards Phnom Penh, the capital.

"Today, US imperialism has exposed itself before the world as the mastermind of the putsch which has turned neutral and peaceful Cambodia into pro-imperialist and bellicose Cambodia.

"People throughout the world have learnt through the US and Western press that close on the heels of the March 18 coup d'état, CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) agents disembarked in Cambodia from US helicopters to prepare for a large-scale co-operation plan between Lon Nol's army and the South Vietnamese mercenaries trained by the US Green Berets; that Cambodian, US and Saigon officers had met on the Cambodian-South Vietnamese frontier to decide on the combined operational plan of the three armed forces; that transport planes of the Caribou and Hercules types had unloaded at the airport of Pochentong thousands of tons of heavy and light armaments, military equipment, radio outfits, etc.

"Meanwhile, the Khmer people have risen up and started their struggle to overthrow the anti-popular, traitorous Lon Nol-Sirik Matak regime.

"In this respect, the whole world has learned from the Western press and the American press itself that since their patriotic and democratic insurrection, the Khmer people have succeeded in a lightning sweep in liberating many districts and setting up their administration there.

"Therefore the press holds that it will not pay to save at great costs the present Phnom Penh regime which has usurped the constitutional power.

"With the 'post' of his Cambodian clients sinking, President Nixon has decided to tear off the mask of US imperialism and to risk 'heavy stakes' against the Khmer people who are fighting simply to regain their freedom and democracy.

"These 'heavy stakes' consist in hurling heavily armed helicopters for merciless terror raids and strafings against the population in the liberated zones; using B-52 bombers to raze the liberated towns and districts; dragging the liberated villages (particularly in the province of Svay Rieng) through

(Continued page 8)

CAMBODIAN PATRIOTIC FORCES' SUBSTANTIAL SUCCESSES

The Cambodian people's resistance against the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique has spread all over Cambodia after the March 18 coup. Rallied under the banner of the National United Front of Kampuchea, the newly-built patriotic armed forces have swung into action while the Cambodian people, loyal to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, have risen up in many areas of the country. Up to the end of April 1970, thousands of traitors were disposed of, many enemy units disintegrated, hundreds of firearms seized, hundreds of military posts overrun, hundreds of villages and about forty sroks (districts) liberated.

The patriotic forces were most conspicuous in the provinces of Ratanak, Mondulkeiri, Kratie, Kompung Cham (Northeast), Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kandal, Takao and Kampot (South), Battambang and Siemreap (Northwest) and even in Phnom Penh, the capital city. Sections of trunk communication lines were cut off such as the road linking Phnom Penh to Saigon through Svay Rieng (Highway No 1), to the North-eastern provinces (No 7) to Takeo (No 2) to Sihanoukville (Kampong) (No 3) and the railway line parallel to that road.

It is reported that on the night of May 2, the Cambodian patriotic forces liberated two important towns on the Mekong River and two subsector CPs between 46 and 75 km southeast of

Phnom Penh: the ferries of Neak Luong on Highway No 1 and Phnom Trakeb and the towns of Ba Nam and Kompung Trakeb, in Prey Veng province; the enemy took hundreds of casualties and had 500 men captured.

On the same night, other actions were mounted by the patriots in the provinces of Battambang, Siemreap and Kompung Thom. At Siemreap, 30 km northwest of Phnom Penh, hundreds of Lon Nol troops crossed over to the side of the patriotic forces in full kit.

The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique is nearing its doom. To prop it up, Nixon decided to invade Cambodia and send weapons and the South Vietnamese mercenaries to Phnom Penh, for, according to the Western press, the defence of the capital city can no more be assured by the Lon Nol army now heading for its collapse.

THREE U.S. "SCHEMES" BARED

In a statement issued to the press in Peking on April 30 by his Private Secretariat, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk exposed the "schemes" hatched by the US and its "allies" and satellites to "save the tottering Lon Nol-Matak regime in Phnom Penh from its inevitable doom."

The statement described them as follows:

a) A so-called Asian Conference on Cambodia.

b) Formation of a so-called coalition government in Phnom Penh.

c) Internationalization of the civil war in Cambodia which has become a foreign invasion "in the mouths of President Nixon and his lackeys, Adam Malik, Thanat Khoman and company."

Samdech N. Sihanouk made clear his official position with regard to these three "schemes" as follows:

"(a) We deny in anticipation the de-Americanized and Americanized governments of Bangkok, Seoul and Saigon and the non-Asian governments of Canberra and Wellington the right to interfere in whatever manner in the internal affairs of the Indochinese peoples, of the Khmer people in particular.

"(b) Indochina belongs to the Indochinese people alone. The affairs of Cambodia concern only the Cambodians. For the three Indochinese countries there is only one foreign invasion, that is the invasion by the United States, the sole violator of the Geneva Agreements of 1954 on Indochina and those of 1962 on Laos.

"(c) Therefore, if de-Americanized Asians, Americanized Asians and servile Asians of the United States as well as self-styled Asians are to meet at a conference, they should put on the agenda of this conference the sole question of unconditional, total and immediate withdrawal of the ground, naval and air forces of the United States and its satellites from Indochina.

"We recall that among the future participants in the projected so-called Asian conference are countries like Thailand, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand which, by chipping in soldiers of theirs, have invaded and are committing aggression against South Viet Nam on the orders of US imperialism.

"The conference to be convened by Mr Adam Malik, the well-known 'assistant' of the United States, should therefore limit its 'ambitions' to bringing about a halt to this invasion and aggression.

"b) We reject in advance all solutions to be concocted by the United States directly or through intermediary 'friendly' governments to the Phnom Penh government on a new lease of life, to giving Lon Nol a new lease of life.

"Unless this regime of sanguinary traitors resigns in toto and unless these go into exile abroad, there will be no question of the Khmer people and their liberation army carrying any *modus vivendi* with corrupted rightist and ultra-rightist criminals and servants of US imperialism.

"The Khmer people and their National United Front of Kampuchea and liberation army will continue to fight arms in hands, even if it should take them several years, till the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak regime is crushed, the traitors and their chief accomplices the resistance to the US imperialism is rendered incapable of engineering another coup against Cambodia like that of March 18, 1970.

"We resolutely dismiss the description by the Washington government and other governments acting as its accomplices of the Khmer people's resistance to the fascist and traitorous Lon Nol regime as 'foreign invasion' in an attempt to justify intervention in Cambodia by the imperialist and satellite forces.

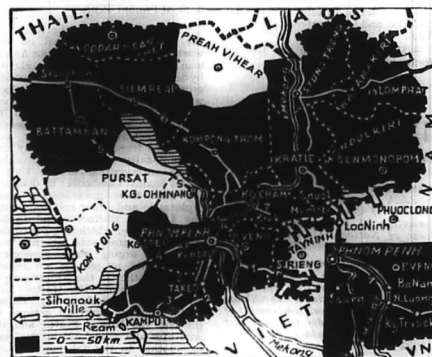
"At present, with the support of the other brother peoples of Indochina, the Khmer people alone, under the banner of the National United Front of Kampuchea, assume the responsibility of liberating Cambodia.

"This conforms to the April 25 Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples in letter and in spirit. The Declaration says:

"Inspired by the principle that the liberation and defence of each country is the affair of its own people, the fraternal parties undertake to do everything possible to render one another mutual support if the interested party so desires and on the basis of mutual respect."

"We therefore declare that neither the United States nor any other country has the right to intervene militarily in Indochina in general and in Cambodia in particular.

"As far as our Cambodia is concerned, we draw the attention of the powers outside Indochina to the very grave consequences of their present or eventual intervention, for which they alone are to be held responsible.



CAMBODIA'S NATIONAL
ROYAL GOVERNMENT SET UP"PROCHEACHON" SUPPORTS
SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK

SAMDECH Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia and President of the National United Front of Kampuchea, held a press conference in Peking, at which he made public the Political Programme of the National United Front of Kampuchea (see analysis in our next issue) and the list of the members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea. He also announced the establishment of the Royal Government of National Union under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea and made known the Proclamation of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and the member list of that Government.

Following is the list of members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea:

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Mr. Penn Nouth | Chairman |
| Mr. Chau Seng | member |
| General Duong San Ol | member |
| Mr. Chan Youtan | member |
| Mr. Cha Sann | member |
| Mr. Hou Yuen | member |
| Mr. Hu Nim | member |
| Mr. Huot Samlath | member |
| Mr. Khieu Samphan | member |
| Mr. Sarin Chhak | member |
| Mr. Thionum Mumm | member |

The Royal Government of National Union under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea is composed of the following personalities:

| |
|---|
| Prime Minister: Mr. Penn Nouth |
| Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr. Sarin Chhak |
| Minister charged with special missions: Mr. Chau Seng |
| Minister of Popular Education and Youth: Mr. Chan Youtan |
| Minister of Public Health, Religious and Social Affairs: Dr. Ngo Hu |
| Minister of Economy and Finance: Mr. Thionum Mumm |
| Minister of National Defence: Mr. Khieu Samphan |
| Minister of Military Equipment and Armament: Major General Duong San Ol |
| Minister of Information and Propaganda: Mr. Hu Nim |
| Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Reconstruction: Mr. Huot Samlath |
| Minister of Interior, Communal Reforms and Cooperatives: Mr. Hou Yuen |
| Minister of Justice and Judicial Reforms: Mr. Cha Sann |

The Proclamation of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia reads in full as follows:

"In his formal message to the Khmer nation, dated March 23, 1970, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, announced the formation of a new Royal Government of National Union under the leadership of the FUNK.

"Today, following the extraordinary congress which brought together in Peking the qualified representatives of different circles of Khmer society, the new Royal Government of National Union under the leadership of the FUNK of which Mr. Penn Nouth is Prime Minister, is formed.

"Just as it was defined in the

aforsaid message of the Head of State, the essential mission of the new government is to faithfully and entirely execute the Political Programme of the FUNK.

1—Unite all our people to frustrate all the manoeuvre, and aggression by the American imperialists overthrow the dictatorship of their rulers headed by Lon Nol-Sirik Matak.

2—After complete victory, build an independent, peaceful, neutral, democratic and prosperous Cambodia.

"On this occasion, the new Government of National Union under the leadership of the FUNK reaffirms solemnly its capacity as the sole legal and legitimate government of the entire Khmer nation from which the fascist and racist reactionary regime of Phnom Penh is excluded.

"On this score, it proclaims solemnly:

1—The condemnation by the Khmer people of the traitorous Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique which has sabotaged and destroyed the independence, peace and neutrality of Cambodia for the benefit of American imperialism.

2—The total repudiation by those of Saigon, have extensively

(Continued page 11)

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk Denounces...

fire and blood, and killing even women, old people and children, with hundreds of armoured cars plus the artillery and infantry including Yankee troops and companies of Serei Khmer from South Viet Nam under the command of the notorious 'Green Berets.'

"Not satisfied with this sinister open intervention with the sole purpose of crushing ruthlessly the national liberation movement of the Khmer people, certain military circles of Washington even have the cheek to suggest that the USA should not let, at any cost, the army of the National United Front of Kampuchea, which they wretchedly label 'Viet Cong,' to take hold of Phnom Penh."

"In my capacity as the leader of the Khmer people, I call on the world's peoples, including the American people, to show their solidarity by denouncing this new and monstrous crime of US imperialism, which wants to deny desperately by armed force a small people the right to fight for national independence, peace, neutrality, democracy and their own freedom; by severely and unequivocally condemning this armed intervention of the United States against Cambodia; by demanding that their governments sever diplomatic and other relations with the Lon Nol traitorous and blood-thirsty regime, which has paved the way to the afore-said US intervention; by urging their respective governments to provide aid in one way or another to the Khmer people struggling against the traitors and the foreign invaders; by taking diplomatic and political actions to prevent the United States and its satellites and allies in one way or another to the anti-popular Lon Nol-Sirik Matak regime at bay, and

THE Committee of the "Procheachon" (People's Group) of Cambodia issued on April 23 a statement asserting that the unchanged policy of the FUNK is to rally the entire Khmer people against the US imperialists and their henchmen in Cambodia, and voicing its support for the Proclamation of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk on March 23.

The statement said: "Since its foundation (1955) our 'Procheachon' has consistently kept to its political stand, that of uniting the entire people composed of the workers, peasants, petty bourgeois intellectuals, members of the Buddhist clergy, national minorities, patriotic capitalists and patriotic military as well as civil servants, patriotic personalities, patriotic members of the Royal Family, and political parties and mass organizations regardless of political tendencies, in order to wage a struggle against the US imperialists and their henchmen to defend peace, independence, neutrality, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and for democratic liberties and better living conditions of the people.

"Over the past fifteen years our 'Procheachon,' through thick and thin, with the support of

the entire people, has carried out most consistently and actively the above-defined political line. Our group has continually exposed and actively opposed the schemes of the US imperialists and their henchmen headed by Lon Nol who, combining attacks from outside with coup attempts from inside, plotted to destroy the peaceful, independent and neutral Cambodia and make of it a new colony of the US.

"This plot now has become a reality.

"In face of the present grave danger, we reaffirm that only by uniting the entire people and using all forms of struggle to foil the schemes of the US imperialists and overthrow the traitorous clique, henchmen of the US, headed by Lon Nol, and set up a patriotic, peaceful and truly neutral government which will defend democratic liberties and improve the living conditions of the people, is it possible to achieve a truly independent, peaceful, neutral and prosperous Cambodia.

"In that spirit the 'Procheachon' declares its approval of, and support for, the March 23 Proclamation of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk."

"But the peoples who are victims of US neo-colonialist imperialism do not and will not rest on their laurels. They are ever a prey to Nixon and his like.

"So far as the Khmer people in particular and the Indochinese peoples in general are concerned, there is no question, and will never be any question, of bowing to or being brought to their knees before the US imperialist aggressor and murderer."

Shrugging off Nixon's allegation that "the Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese people could be a menace to the lives of the American youth or the security of the United States half the globe away from Indochina," Samdech N. Sihanouk said, "Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam have never for a moment, that is to say neither before nor after the signing of the 1954 'Agreements on Indochina,' threatened or provoked the United States.

"It is the United States alone which has deliberately violated these agreements and which, like a vulture falling on a defenceless prey, has decided brutally to attack our three countries and peoples.

"This fact is known to the whole world. Only the governments subservient to the United States pretend not to be aware of it.

"The lives of Mr. Nixon's soldiers will no longer be in danger as soon as he decides (and the American people have given him full powers to do so) to abide by the 1954 Geneva Agreements and consequently, withdraws all the US and allied forces from Indochina and lets the Indochinese peoples themselves solve the problems of their respective countries."

"I request all the peoples and governments of the world to make this plain to the countries and peoples susceptible to be their prey in the world.

"We shall always bear in mind and, at the same time, call the attention of the people the world over to the confession which Nixon has made involuntarily in his speech concerning the US refusal to become a second-rate power. In other words, according to Nixon and his Pentagon the United States would never agree to give up being an imperialist and neo-colonialist power. To decolonize such countries as Thailand, South Viet Nam and South Korea or to renounce the colonization of Laos and Cambodia means, in the eyes of Nixon and the US Hawks, that the United States would become a second-rate power, and that they would lose a war for the first time in their history. (sic.)

"This is a nice piece of confession for the man who has the power and grandeur of the United States is based on aggression, conquest, colonization and maintenance of its empire over the countries and peoples susceptible to be their prey in the world.

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All States Which Have Peace and Liberty
of the Peoples at Heart Are Called Upon
To Show Their Will To Contribute to the
Riposte Against the Aggressor
(Soviet Government's Statement)

The Government of the Soviet Union on May 4 issued the following statement:

In face of a grave deterioration of the situation in Southeast Asia caused by the aggressive acts of the US of America against Cambodia, the Soviet Government deems it necessary to make the following declaration:

On orders from the President of the United States, Richard Nixon, US armed forces entered the territory of neutral Cambodia on the night from April 30 to May 1. This was announced in an address made by the President of the United States over the radio and television. According to press agencies, the American armed forces, including armoured and air forces, are advancing deep into Cambodian territory, bringing death to the population of Cambodia. The American command also has ordered important forces of the puppet regime of South Viet Nam to participate in those aggressive operations.

A new hotbed of war has appeared on the territory of Southeast Asia. In addition to Viet Nam and Laos, the war has been extended to Cambodia.

While involving another State of the Indochinese peninsula in the war, the President of the United States levelled in his address a threat at all the States which would decide to give their support to the victims of the American aggression. Moreover, the United States has, in the past few days, conducted massive air raids against certain areas of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Thus, it has grossly violated the commitment that it had taken and that constituted the basis of the four-party talks in Paris.

It is clear that the American administration is following an aggressive tendency in its policy, thinking that the only course for a big power in dealing with international affairs is to have recourse to force.

In Washington it is presumed that the United States will use force where it considers necessary to overthrow the governments unacceptable to it and to establish its dictatorship. Such a tendency which has been followed in the past has brought about the present only failure to the American policy. That is a well-known fact which is being exemplified by the war against the Vietnamese people.

Having provoked a war in Cambodia and having resumed large-scale air raids against populated areas of the DRVN, President Nixon has repeated the decision taken by his predecessor, President Johnson, regarding the cessation, as early as November 1968, of all air bombardment and other acts involving the use of force against the DRVN.

The above-mentioned statement of the President of the United

700 Million Chinese Will Readily
Give All-Out Support and Assistance
to Indochinese Peoples
(Chinese Government's
Statement)

The Government of the People's Republic of China issued on May 4 the following statement:

On April 30, 1970, US President Nixon, tearing off all masks of "peace," brazenly announced the committing of US troops and South Viet Nam mercenaries to a massive invasion of Cambodia and a barbarous war of aggression against the Cambodian people. At the same time, on May 1 and 2, US imperialism resumed bombing of Quang Binh and Nghe An provinces of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This is an extremely grave step taken by US imperialism to further expand its war of aggression in Indochina. This fully proves that the reactionary coup d'état staged on March 18 by the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak rightist clique with the aim of illegally overthrowing Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk was entirely plotted and engineered by the Nixon Government.

On May 2, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia and President of the National United Front of Kampuchea, issued a solemn and just statement sternly condemning US imperialism for its odious crime of aggression against Cambodia and solemnly calling on the valiant Cambodian people to unite closely with the fraternal Vietnamese and Lao peoples and strengthen to the maximum their common struggle against the US aggressors in accordance with the resolutions of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front

made public on May 2 and 3 strong statements, condemning US imperialism for its new crimes of aggression and war.

The Chinese Government and people express their most resolute support to the statement of Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and to the statements of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front.

The Chinese Government solemnly declares:

US imperialist aggression against Cambodia and expansion of its war of aggression in Indochina are not only frantic provocations against the three Indochinese peoples, but also frantic provocations against the Chinese people, the South-East Asian peoples and the revolutionary peoples of the whole world. Implementing their great leader (Chairman Mao Tse-tung's teachings, the 700 million Chinese people pledge a powerful backing for the three Indochinese peoples and all-out support and assistance to the fraternal peoples of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam in carrying to the end until complete victory the war against US aggression and for national salvation.

Chairman Mao has long pointed out: "The US imperialists and reactionaries of all countries are paper tigers." The three Indochinese peoples, uniting together, daring to fight, persevering in protracted war, defying difficulties and advancing wave upon wave, will certainly defeat the US aggressors and all their running dogs.

Victory surely belongs to the three heroic Indochinese peoples!

KOSYGIN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINA

A. N. KOSYGIN, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, held on May 4 a press conference in which he read the statement of the Soviet Government on US expansion of its war of aggression in Indochina. He then answered many questions of the press.

Referring to the statement of the White House to the effect that the Soviet Union must weigh all the complexity of the relations with the United States in view of the US intrusion in Cambodia, Chairman Kosygin said that the spokesmen of the White House had somewhat sought to intimidate us. But he stressed, this statement should be addressed to Mr. Nixon. It is Nixon who must weigh the risks before committing aggression, deploying his troops and killing civilians.

Refuting Nixon's allegations that the US acts in Cambodia are necessary to continue and accelerate the withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam, Chairman Kosygin said that with such a logic, one could interfere in any country in the world.

To a question concerning the re-activation of the International Control Commission in Cambodia, Kosygin said, "Now is the time for actions to solve the problem, to deal with US aggression, to withdraw US troops from Cambodia and Viet Nam."

With regard to the holding of a Geneva Conference in the context of the current situation in Cambodia,

Chairman Kosygin said that the decisive voice belonged to Cambodia, Viet Nam and Laos. Now that aggressive operations have taken place, they must be stopped. Now is not the time for conferences. It is a time for action.

Chairman Kosygin mentioned reports of US troops in Cambodia applying the tactics of burning all, raising all towns and villages, killing women and children.

Chairman Kosygin rejected the convening of a South-East Asian Conference at the proposal of Adam Malik, Foreign Minister of Indonesia, with the participation of US allies in the aggression. He pointed out that the conference would bring the allies of an aggression could not bring about a peaceful settlement.

Replying to a question by Viet Nam News Agency, Chairman Kosygin said: "The recent conference of the representatives of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples has provided a factor which will make it possible to co-ordinate efforts of the three Indochinese peoples in the resistance against US aggression."

Referring to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, Chairman Kosygin denounced the uncourteous attitude of the US side and said: "As you know, the negotiations have made no progress."

Kosygin reaffirmed the comprehensive support accorded by the Soviet Union to the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression.

NIXON FACES WIDE PUBLIC OUTCRIES AT HOME

THE reckless decision of US President Nixon to send American troops for an overt armed aggression against Cambodia and renew bombing against many populated areas of North Viet Nam has set off a flurry of public outcries in the United States.

Americans of all walks of life, including the toughest supporters of Nixon, are in the Senate and House of Representatives, have denounced the moves as serious threats to peace likely to lead to an indefinite prolongation of American military involvement in South-East Asia.

In the hours immediately after Nixon's televised speech on April 30 on the sending of US forces to Cambodia the Senate Foreign Relations Committee issued a warning on "the danger of seeing the Vietnam conflict spread to the whole of Indochina." A unanimous statement issued by the Committee affirmed that the situation in Cambodia was a "grave development."

The Committee on May 1st asked for a meeting with President Nixon to discuss the Cambodia issue. In a report the Committee said, "In the Committee's view... the war in Indochina has been conducted from its outset without constitutional authorization. The commitment of at least 8,000 American soldiers to fight in Cambodia... evidence a co-victim by the executive that it is at liberty to ignore the national commitment's resolution and to take over both the war and treaty powers

of Congress." The Committee report noted that President Nixon, in announcing American troops were entering Cambodia, "did not think it necessary to explain what he believed to be the legal ground on which he was acting other than to refer to his powers as commander-in-chief of the armed forces."

Senator William Fulbright, Democratic Chairman of the Committee, described the dispatch of American troops to Cambodia as a "major escalation of the war" there. He said: "It is fully consistent with the policy we (the US administration) have been following for any number of years... It is not consistent with any plan for ending the war."

Senator McGovern, a potential candidate for the presidency in 1972, called Nixon's Indochina moves "barbaric and senseless." "The recent invasion of Cambodia and resumption of bombing of North Viet Nam are only the latest in a long series of actions that mean more slaughter and destruction," he said.

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield began Senate debates on the Cambodia invasion by branding it an "ill advised adventure that could escalate the conflict into a general Indochinese war."

Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democratic—Maine, said he was terribly disturbed and concerned

(Continued page 11)

its bellicose policy of aggression.

The Soviet Union has always respected and will continue to respect the neutrality and independence of Cambodia, as well as her sovereignty, territorial integrity and frontiers. This is the reason why we forcefully condemn US intervention in Cambodia.

Whatever pretext may be advanced to justify such an intervention, it is evident that the cynical contempt for the inalienable right of the Indochinese peoples to the masters of their countries and the gross American dictum remain the basis of the US foreign policy while plots and military intervention and aggression are the means to realize it.

It is certain that the expansion of US aggression in South-East Asia will meet with more resolute and more effective response from the countries victims of the imperialist attacks and from all those who have the interests of peace and the freedom of the peoples at heart. In addition to the heavy responsibility for its war against the Vietnamese people, the US must also shoulder its responsibility for the aggression perpetrated against the Cambodian people. Of course, the Soviet Government will draw appropriate conclusions for its policy in view of this line of action adopted by the US in South-East Asia.

LAO PATRIOTS CAPTURE ATTOPEU TOWN

THE Lao patriotic armed forces and people on April 28 overran the enemy positions in Attopeu and captured the town, reported KPL which quoted sources of the Vietnamese administration as saying that 93 rightist troops were killed and 25 others were wounded.

The Lao patriots assaulted an artillery site, the airfield, the military headquarters and several bar-

racks of the enemy. Under the impact of the powerful assaults, the enemy in the town fled in panic.

Attopeu town, situated at the foot of the fertile Boloven plateau in Lower Laos, had been a staging area for the US-fostered bandits and commands to launch harassing attacks against the liberated area in Attopeu and other provinces.

U.S. AGGRESSION AGAINST CAMBODIA CONDEMNED

In a statement issued on May 3, the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front energetically condemned the open armed intervention of the US imperialists

against Cambodia and voiced full support for the struggle of the Khmer people to defend their independence and territorial integrity.

News in Brief NIXON FACES... (Continued from page 10)

THE governments or leaders of the German Democratic Republic, the Republic of Cuba, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Rumanian Socialist Republic, the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic and the Arab Republic of Syria have made statements or sent messages expressing their support to the Indochinese People's Summit Conference.

Lee Metcalf, Democratic—Montana, said: "He (Nixon) has brought this war. This is not only the Nixon war, but it's a bigger war than we've ever had." "Ghastly," exclaimed Senator Charles E. Goodell, Republican—New York. "Unbelievable," commented O. Hatfield, Republican—Oregon. "A tragic mistake," remarked William D. Proxmire, Democratic—Wisconsin.

Senator Ed. M. Kennedy said Nixon has "fallen a prey to the same illusions that drove another from office—victory in Southeast Asia." "Today," he said, "we are in error. Men will die, and we will reap the harvest of this error with dissent and turmoil." The United States is facing a very dark future because the president's policies can bring nothing but an increased level of violence and expansion of the war, Nixon's policies will bring sorrow, death and more air strikes.

ON April 26, the leaders of the DRVN sent to the leaders of the Chinese People's Republic a message warmly congratulating them on the successful launching of the first and second man-made satellite of the Earth.

ON May 5, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front C.C. and the Viet Nam Peace Committee held a meeting in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Germany from the Hitlerites (May 8, 1945). On May 6, another meeting was held by the Fatherland Front C.C. and the Viet Nam—Soviet Friendship Association to mark the victory of the Soviet Union over Hitler's Germany (May 9, 1945).

about the President's decision. He said that Nixon's speech on April 30 and the one ten days before in which he said just peace was in sight were "irreconcilable." He added, "The President has decided to seek a military method of ending this war rather than a negotiated method."

The police brutalities and especially the killing of four students in a demonstration at Kent State University, Ohio, poured oil on the flames. A youth in Indiana committed self-immolation in sign of protest; the Student Mobilisation Committee To End the War in Viet Nam, the National Student Association, the New Mobilisation Committee To End the War in Viet Nam called for rallies and vigils on May 7, a national day of mourning on May 8 and a march on the presidential mansion in Washington DC on May 9.

According to Western reports, more than 150 schools throughout the United States had planned strikes.

OTHER anti-war groups have also taken action. About 2,500 employees of the New York City government signed petitions on May 5 protesting Nixon's policies in South-East Asia and the fatal shooting of the four students at Kent State University. The petition described the deaths of the students as "logical outcome of the Nixon administration's policy of escalating the use of violence at home and abroad." The "Americans for Democratic Action" (ADA) said on May 1st that Nixon's Cambodia decision is a "just cause for the initiation of impeachment proceedings in House of Representatives against the President." A resolution adopted at the opening session of the 33rd annual convention of the ADA said the Administration had

invaded and occupied the national territory, in defiance of all the international laws and in order to repress our people.

"That the foreign policy of Cambodia is and will remain that of national independence, peace, neutrality and non-alignment, of solidarity and friendship with all the peace- and justice-loving peoples and governments."

"In this spirit, the new Royal Government of National Union under the leadership of the FUNK has shown its unqualified respect for all the international treaties, accords and conventions which Cambodia had signed before March 18, 1970."

"Considering moreover that the Cambodian people are engaged in the struggle for the recovery of its sacred rights to independence and national sovereignty, against oppression by the American imperialists and their lackeys of Phnom Penh, and that the struggle is of such a nature as to involve the lives of the Indochinese peoples, victims of American imperialism, and certain of the justice of the struggle being waged at present against the open aggression and massive armed forces of the American imperialists, and of final support to the Government of National Union under the leadership of the FUNK expects encouragements, militant sympathy and fraternal support, as from today, from all the

THE Nixon decision drew violent outbursts from the students who almost immediately after

CAMBODIA'S...

(Continued from page 8)

peoples and governments in the world who uphold independence, peace and justice.

"This encouragement, sympathy and support will find expression in the recognition of our government as the sole legal and legitimate government of Cambodia by more and more friendly peoples and governments."

"For their part, the Khmer people, under the leadership of the FUNK and its President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, are ready to make all sacrifices to achieve final victory over the American imperialists and their lackeys, the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak clique, for the present struggle determines the liberty and dignity of our future generations and it is fundamental for the independence, liberty and progress of the Indochinese peoples and the peoples of the world."

"Long live the FUNK!"

"Long live Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State and President of the FUNK!"

"The Khmer people will win!"

THE Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia was promptly granted diplomatic recognition by the Government of the DRVN and the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government as the sole legal and legitimate government of Cambodia.

caused a grave constitutional crisis by an illegal act of war. It called for immediate withdrawal of all American troops from Southeast Asia and asked Congress not to approve any more funds for the war.

Another assault on US policy in Southeast Asia came from John Kenneth Galbraith, a Harvard economist, staff, former US Ambassador to India. In a prepared speech, Galbraith said control of the US military establishment was the paramount issue of the nation.

He said that there were few or no vocal defenders of the war in Viet Nam and that it drew its support from the military bureaucracy. "The simple truth is that we are fighting this war not for the national interest but for the military interest," he said.

Linus Pauling, a Nobel prize winner, branded as "idiotic" the American intrusion in Cambodia.

Dr. Benjamin Spock, at a press conference organised by the New Mobilisation Committee, launched an appeal in favour of a movement against the government policy. He announced plans for a mass demonstration on May 9 in front of the White House with the slogan: "Withdraw immediately US troops from South-East Asia."

THE wave of indignation has also reached Americans abroad. According to AP, a group of Americans living in Manila on May 2 sharply denounced the decision of President Nixon to send US troops into Cambodia. The group called "Americans against US Policy in Viet Nam," said, "We condemn this American intrusion. President and announce that he does not represent us."

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologise for this short coming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to make you more efficiently in future.

SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT...

(Continued from page 9)

The policy of neutrality of Cambodia and her peaceful line which it has pursued until recently was not to the liking of the US. The American invasion of Cambodia has brought out still more evidently the link existing between the subversive actions of the services counter of the US and the coup d'etat in Phnom Penh which has discarded from power the legal Head of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk. These services and their agents in Cambodia have been doing their best to arouse bad blood between the Khmer and Vietnamese peoples. They have carried out a bloody massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, set up concentration camps where they brutally killed peaceful inhabitants of the country. They resorted to every method to make Asians fight one another. Fratricidal wars have been imposed on the countries of this area. The doctrine of "Vietnamization" of the war advocated by the US President provides an example. Eventually, every government which allows the US to turn it into an accomplice of its policy of aggression must be condemned as the enemy of the peoples.

One may ask who has allowed the

US to arrogate to itself the right to decide what is good or bad for the other peoples. For what reason is the US assuming the role which cannot be described otherwise than that of an international gangster? Nobody has accorded it such a right. The US has no and has not any ground to do so.

US armed imperialism in Cambodia has stirred up the indignation of all peace-loving forces in the world. The Soviet Government holds that the extension of US aggression in Indochina has rendered still more imperative the necessity of the union and a still greater cohesion of all the socialist, anti-imperialist and peace-loving forces in the struggle against aggression.

In this situation, all states which have peace and liberty of the peoples at heart, are called upon to show a high sense of responsibility with regard to the ulterior development of the events and their will to contribute to the fight against the aggressor.

The invasion by American troops in Cambodia also risks to bring about an aggravation of the world situation. In this light, the question is how one should understand the repeated statements of the President

MILITARY OPERATIONS

INITIAL RESULTS OF PLAF ACTIONS FROM APRIL 1 TO 20, 1970

- ★ 50,000 Enemy Troops (20,000 GIs) Put out of Action.
- ★ 1,200 Military Vehicles (800 Tanks and Armoured Cars) Destroyed.
- ★ 500 Planes and Helicopters Downed or Destroyed.

ENEMY LOSSES AT DAK SIENG (148km SOUTH - SOUTHEAST OF DA NANG) IN 26 DAYS (APRIL 1-26)

- ★ 2,497 Casualties (35 US Advisers and 4 Puppet Battalion Commanders).
- ★ 151 Prisoners.
- ★ 60 Aircraft Downed and 16 Destroyed.
- ★ 32 Cannons and Heavy Mortars Knocked out of Commission

Carried pick-a-back, these PLAF guns are at spring surprises on the enemy



Saigon in Political Effervescence

THIEU KY-KHIEM CLIQUE UNDER FIRE FROM ALL QUARTERS

In Saigon, the students stepped up their struggle against the fascist dictatorial regime. The "Supreme Court" had to consider the legality of the action brought by Nguyen Van Thieu against the students. On April 21, it came to the conclusion that the "confession" writing by torture upon which to indict the students arraigned before the military court, was not valid and on April 29, it stated that that law-suit was a breach of the "constitution."

The Thieu - Ky - Khiem clique was nonplussed by the statement made to pressmen by the students "questioned" by the police. UPI wrote on April 29: "Que Huong, a teacher, one of the four girls among 21 persons brought to trial before the military court, said she and the other three girls were tortured with electric shocks in their cars. Two had lighted cigarettes placed against their sex organs. Mrs Huong said her husband was forced to watch her tortured and then she was forced to watch as her husband was beaten."

"Another witness, Luu Huong Thao, who was carried into the court room by four other students, said he was beaten on the knees for seven days and can barely walk. Thao said he had electric shocks applied to his ears and genitals. At one point, police thought he was dead and drove him

out along the Bien Hoa highway, prepared to dump him in a ditch but found he was still alive. Thao said the police also poured salt water down his throat and then jumped on his stomach to make sure he vomited blood."

The students also actively took part in a vast protest movement against the massacre by the Lon Nol-Matka clique of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. Thieu was quick to quell it. The police used bludgeons and tear grenades to disperse the crowd and even the ceremony in memory of the victims of the massacre by the Phnom Penh fascists. Two newspapers were closed down: *Tin Sang* (Morning News) which wrote in its April 18 issue that "the indifference of the government induces people to believe that it is ready to sacrifice the Vietnamese in Cambodia for the sake of anti-communism," and the *Dong Nai* which quoted on April 27 "Senator" Pham Nam Sach as asserting that the Saigon administration had supplied Phnom Penh with arms and ammunition to slaughter the Vietnamese residents.

On April 24, the crowd, exasperated by the hateful attitude of the Thieu-Ky-Khien clique, stormed the supply of the former Cambodian Embassy in Saigon. About one hundred youths, mostly students and school-leavers, occupied it and the ground against the police

which besieged it to deny them all food supply. However in the two days' blockade, foodstuffs managed to pass through the police siege. It was not until May 3 that the students evacuated the building after a violent clash in which tear gas was used by the police. About sixty students were marched away.

Meanwhile, serious incidents occurred between the generals' men and Saigon Buddhists. The bone-rogue Thich Tam Chau — who is to the present dictators what was Mgr Ngo Dinh Thuc to tyrant Ngo Dinh Diem — has for years illegally occupied the *Institute for the Valorisation of Buddhism*. On May 3 a crowd composed of bonzes, Buddhist youths and chiefly students, succeeded in breaking through the police cordon set around the establishment and occupying it again. On May 5, one hour after the police assault against the students picketing the Cambodian Embassy, about one hundred puppet soldiers armed with M. 16 automatic carbines, under the command of a bonze, Thich Tam Gao, in the uniform of a colonel chaplain, stormed the institute and opened up on the defenders, killing ten and injuring over one hundred. Covering this massacre, the Western press pointed out that Thieu's police had shown a biased neutrality by giving the murders a free hand.

Tension was at its height. On May 5, the puppet administration decided to close

down all schools and faculties till further notice. The following day, the curfew was set earlier and extended by 2 hours and a circular was issued banning all strikes, demonstrations and meetings. However, on May 7, the Saigonese students continued to demonstrate in

the streets under the very nose of the police. UPI remarked on May 7 that the demonstration had been quite a success.

In Saigon, the ground is burning more and more intolerably under the feet of the Thieu-Ky-Khien clique and their American bosses.

Scanning the Saigon Press

The Puppet Administration and Disabled Servicemen

On March 8, 1970 the puppet authorities pulled down houses in Doan Tai Diem Street, Saigon, and evicted many families, including those of war invalids. This arbitrary action resulted in a clash. Earlier families of disabled soldiers in the 4th and 6th town districts had been victims of the same measure after their discharge from hospital.

What about those still under treatment? In its March 9, 1970 issue, the Saigon paper *Hoa Binh* (Peace) carried a reportage on this subject, an excerpt of which reads as follows:

"I met at Phan Thiet a raw recruit who had a right leg and left arm amputated, three fingers missing in his right hand, a scarred and blotchy face and was blind in his right eye. At my question: 'Has any one come to see you?' he hung down his head, looked at his remaining leg and shook his head. From a blood-stained bed nearby, a legless soldier addressed me: 'Are they having a merry Tet outside?' Not waiting for my answer, he continued, 'It is since long that we have not had a decent Tet.' Two different worlds

exist within and without the hospital. Separated by a high wall, inside of the hospital are the blood and tears of soldiers just back from the front, and outside a lot of merry-making and fine dresses (of the authorities), 1,000 war invalids, 100 cripples, 100 maimed soldiers, 100 mental patients did not know anything about Tet. One could see blood-soaked beds, shallow faces near pools of blood and swarms of mosquitoes. The wards were deep in filth. I asked a patient how often they received clean clothes and was told this happened once a few months or on the occasion of a visit of some delegation. Able-bodied soldiers would get such a new change of clothes and the disabled ones were left in the lurch.

"I wonder why the soldiers who have escaped death at the front are treated so harshly in hospitals. Have our statesmen and big wigs ever paid them a visit and heard their complaints. Go, go to death, my boys, and if wounded you will silently be evacuated to hospital and then to the cemetery. All the shame and sufferings are on you, forgotten people, in your sick-beds!"